x एफ.आर. द्वारा निर्धारित अवधि के भीतर इन मिलों की निबल पूंजी के सकारात्मक बन जाने के वी.आई.एफ.आर. के मानदंडों को ध्यान में रखा जा रहा है । पुररुद्धार योजना में कारगारों के हितों को ध्यान में रखा जाएगा ।

हस्तशिल्प कारीगर

866. **श्री नागमणि** :
चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव :

क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार के पास हस्तशिल्पों की राज्य वार संख्या है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है, और

(ग) उनकी संख्या ज्ञात करके उनके विकास हेतु क्या प्रयास किये गये है ?

वस्त्रमंत्री (श्री काशीराम राणा) : (क) और (ख) अखिल भारतीय स्तर पर, हस्तशिल्प कारीगरों की जनगणना का कार्य 1994-95 में शुरु किया गया था । जम्मू-कश्मीर पंजाब और संघ शासित क्षेत्र चण्डीगढ़ को छोड़कर सभी राज्यों में आंकड़े एकत्र करने का कार्य पूरा हो गया है । इन राज्यों में आंकड़ें एकत्र करने का कार्य चल रहा है । जनगणना का कार्य अतिशीघ्र पूरा करने का प्रयास किए जा रहे है ।

(ग) हस्तशिल्प कारीगरों के विकास हेतु विभिन्न योजनाएं बताई जा रही है इन योजनाओं में, प्रशिक्षण, डिजाइन विकास, इक्सपो व अन्य आयोजनों के माध्यम से विपणन, शिल्प विकास केन्द्रों और एम्पोरियमों की स्थापना वर्कशेड-कम-हाऊसिंग, स्वास्थ्य पैकेज स्कीम आदि शामिल है ।

Production and Marketing of Silk

867. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state steps, if any, Government intend to take/have taken to improve production and marketing of silk in Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Karnatka?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): The programmes/ projects for the development of silk industry in the States are primarily undertaken by the concerned State Governments. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the States, the Central Silk Board (CSB) takes up sericulture development projects (both for mulberry and non-mulberry) in collaboration with State(s). The major projects which have specifically benefited the expansion of sericulture in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and the North-Eastern region during the last five years are the National Sericulture Projects (NSP) in Karnataka and select districts of Madhya Pradesh and Assam in North Eastern'* Region, Project for the Development of nature Grown Tasar Cocoons in Madhya Pradesh, and the Action Plan for the North-Eastern States.

Under the National sericulture projects implemented Karnataka and selecet districts of Madhya Pradesh and Assam, besides the creation of sub-infirastructural support, as per available estimates, area which has been brought under mulberry cultivation has been 1145.50 acres and 991 acres respectively. Under the project for the Development of Nature Grown Tasar Cocoons in Madhya Pradesh, a total quantity of 125.38 lakh cocoons were reared during the VTJJth Plan period. Similarly the Action Plan for development of sericulture in the Eastern States, certain infrastructure has been created. In Assam upto 31.3.1998 an expenditure of Rs. 1.53 crores has been incurred by the CSB on this Plan.

In addition a new programme for poverty alleviation and increase in rural employment through sericulture by the development of necessary infrastructure has commenced in Madhya Pradesh with financial support from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund. Moreover, during the Ixth Five Year Plan till, date 34 catalytic developmental programme has been approved for promoting sericulture in the country.

The total expenditure incurred by the CSB upto 31.3.98 is Rs. 42.53 crores, Rs. 20.18 crores and Rs. 12.76 crores in the States of karnataka, Assam and Madhya Pradesh respectively.

Outdated Technologies in Textile Industry

868. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether textile industry is facing problems because of outdated technologies;

(b) if so, the extent to which it has affected the overall functioning of the textile industry and its impact on the export of Indian textiles; and

(c) the steps taken for the modernisation of the textile industry in the country.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) While the spinning sector is by and large using modem technology and is competitive enough, there is scope for modernisation of technology in the weaving sector, processing sector and the handloom sector for improvement in quality and value addition.

(b) Despite need for technological upgradation, the production of textiles and their exports have increased consistently during the last five years.

I The following major steps have been taken for the modernisation of textile industry:-

(i) Funding at concessional rate of interest was provided through Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme launched in August, 1986 with IDBI as the Operating Agency to meet the fund requirements for modernisation. Although the Scheme has since been discontinued an amount of Rs. 897.48 crores had been disbursed as on 31.12.1993. Financial institutions continued to extend assistance to the textile units for their modernisation.

(ii) Under the EPCG Scheme, the exporters are allowed to import capital goods at reduced or zero rate of duty. The threshold limit under the Scheme has also been reduced for apparel sector from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 1 crore.

(iii) Import of 138 priority items of textile machinery essential for modernisation in the weaving, knitting and processing is permitted at a concessional rate of duty.

(iv) 13% of the quota under bilateral agreement is earmarked for allotment on the basis of investment in the textile industry, so that there may be more investment in this industry. A similar quota of 10% operates for the apparel industry.

(v) Keeping in view the urgent need for modernisation and technological upgradation of ginning, weaving and processing sectors of the textile industry, a proposal to create a Textile Upgradation Fund with a corpus of Rs. 25,000 crores to provide a concessional rate of interest is under the consideration of the Government.

(vi) Financial assistance for setting up of 11 Eco-Laboratories in the first phase during 1995-96 at important textile centres all over the country has been given by the Government. In order to further augment eco and quality testing facilities, the Ministry of Textiles established/upgraded 14 laboratories during 1996-97 and 17 laboratories during 1997-98 at different centres.

(vii) Government has decided to launch a Technology Mission for Cotton, basically for the improvement of production, productivity and quality of cotton, which will have beneficial impact on the downstream textile products in terms of quality an value additions etc.

Relief to Workers of closed Textile Mills in Public Sector

869. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications from closed PSU Textile mills pending with the Regional Textile Commissioner Office, Amritsar and other Regional Offices at present for payment under the Textile Workers' Relief Fund Scheme;

(b) since when these applications have been pending and the reasons for keeping only the applications pertaining to PSU closed mills pending when the TWRF Scheme was introduced for the all closed mills; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to immediately provide relief under the TWRF Scheme in respect of workers of the closed PSU Textile Mills?